

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2731
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2002
BIDS FOR BSNL
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that Chinese firms are going to acquire bid for BSNL network in India as reported in the `Statesman` dated February 7, 2002;
- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof;
- (c) whether such acts are going to pose security threat to the nation;
- (d) if so, whether the Government propose to investigate such investments and bids by Chinese firms; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SKDAR)

(a) & (b): Sir, the news item referred in the question refers to tender issued by BSNL for Dense Wavelength Division Multiplex(DWDM) equipment. Only Indian companies were eligible to participate in the tender for procurement of DWDM equipment, opened on 19/7/2001. Eleven Indian companies participated in this tender, of which four companies offered their equipment with Chinese technology.

(c) to (e): DWDM equipment is envisaged to have Network Management System(NMS)The software of this has built in security and only authorised staff is given password for operation. This NMS is not connected to Public Switched Network and therefore it is not possible to remotely Jam the network or access it for any information.

Further, the tender for procurement of DWDM equipment has not yet been finalized and all aspects including security angle will be taken into account while taking the decision.